

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW AUSTRALIAN FISHES.

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PARASCYLLIUM COLLARE, sp.nov.

The head is broad and flattened above, the snout rounded. Eyes large; the interorbital space equal to the length of the snout; the distance between the tip of the snout and the mouth is three-fifths of that between the angle of the mouth and the eye. Spiracles very small. Nasal valves each furnished with a pair of small cirri. A well-developed fold from the angle of the mouth, extending along the lower jaw to a distance equalling the interspace between the two folds. *Teeth*—In many rows in both jaws, each with a lateral cusp on either side. *Gill-openings*—The four anterior ones small, and their own length apart; the fifth twice as large and contiguous to the penultimate, these two being above the base of the pectoral fin. *Fins*.—The first dorsal commences about the middle of the total length, and is the same size as the second, which commences nearer to the first than to the end of the caudal; the anal is lower, but with a longer base than the second dorsal, and is situated entirely in front of that fin; ventrals considerably in advance of the first dorsal, their outer edge obliquely truncate, and forming a very acute angle with the inner edge; lower caudal lobe large, posterior rounded. Skin very rough when rubbed forwards, owing to the scales, which are numerous and closely set, terminating in an acutely angular point. *Colors*—Rich brown, with six broad darker transverse bands; the first, extending from a short distance in front of the first gill-opening on either side to the third, and being broadest on the occiput, is of a deep chocolate brown; the second, behind the tips of the pectoral fins, much lighter in color, a character common to the four following bands; between and even on all the bands

except the first are large roundish spots of a similar color to the first band, and also on the dorsal, caudal, and ventral fins; pectorals and anal pale brown; snout and an oblong spot beneath each eye brown; lower parts dull white.

In coloration this handsome Dog-fish is intermediate between *P. variolatum* and *P. nuchale*, having the round dark spots on the body and fins of the former, and the nuchal collar of the latter, but without its distinct white spots; while the position of the anal is as described by Duméril, that of the mouth as in Prof. McCoy's species.

Our specimen is over thirty inches long, and was taken by the trawl in deep water off Port Jackson, and kindly presented to the Australian Museum by Mr. Oscar Meyer; it is an adult male. Register number, I. 1874.

HISTIOPTERUS ELEVATUS, sp.nov.

B. vi. D. $7/24$. A. $3/14$. V. $1/5$. P. 16. C. 17. L. 1. 66.
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The length of the head is three and one-fourth, the height of the body two and one-third in the total length. The diameter of the eye is three and one-fifth in the length of the head, five-eighths of that of the snout, and about one-sixth less than a diameter apart. Both the snout and the occiput are deeply concave, while the interorbital space is convex with a median groove. The lower jaw is the longer, and both it and the chin are furnished with short papillæ. The cleft of the mouth is moderate and almost horizontal, and the maxilla extends to the vertical from the anterior nostril. The preopercle is obsoletely serrated on the lower limb and the rounded angle, as is also the post-temporal bone. *Teeth*—Both jaws with a broad band of small conical teeth in front, the outer row being enlarged and slightly curved, while on the sides the bands are much narrower and the teeth more granular; there are no vomerine nor palatine teeth. *Fins*—The dorsal spines are unfortunately broken, with

the exception of the anterior three, which are short, the third being somewhat less than the diameter of the eye, while the last is much more slender than the others; the anal fin commences beneath the eleventh dorsal ray; the first spine is small, the second long and very strong, but the tip is broken off in our specimen; the ventral fins reach to the origin of the anal, and are three-fourths of the length of the head; its spine is very strong, and is four-sevenths of the same length; the pectoral fins are long and falciform, reaching beyond the ventrals, and about equal to the length of the head; the caudal fin is somewhat injured inferiorly, but appears to have been emarginate, with the lobes somewhat acute; the length of the upper is two-ninths of the total length. *Scales*—Of moderate size, cycloid, and very thin; cheeks, a small patch above the opercle, and another above the postero-superior angle of the eye, scaly; remaining bones of the head sculptured. The pseudo-branchiæ are well developed, and the gill-rakers are reduced to mere knobs. *Colors*—Pale reddish-brown, the bony parts of the head darker, as also are the dorsal and anal spines; ventral fins and some of the middle dorsal rays black; rest of the fins colorless.

But for the difference in the number of the dorsal spines and some other minor variations, I should have been inclined to consider this to be the species described in the "Fauna Japonica" as *H. acutirostris*. Our specimen, which was obtained in the Sydney market, and measures $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches, was obtained by the trawl net in seventy fathoms water off Port Jackson. Register number, I. 1894.